

A Layperson's Brief Guide to Ministering/ Praying

for Someone Online or on the Telephone

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This is not an exhaustive handbook. It is a brief guide filled with suggestions about the kind of things one might say or pray while ministering to someone on a one-time or short-term basis.

Depending on the circumstances, these suggestions may not be fully sufficient for the task. They are only the start of a process that should be carried further by pastoral, intercessory, home fellowship leaders, or counseling ministries.

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I. MINIMAL STANDARDS FOR MINISTRY/PRAYER COUNSELOR WORKERS

A. Born again

B. Bible-believing

C. Empowered by the Spirit

D. Committed to a local church

E. Reasonably mature in their faith

F. A good heart attitude

G. Obedient to God's Word (Romans 15:14)

H. A servant's nature (Matthew 20:26-28)

I. Free from habitual sin (2 Corinthians 7:1)

J. Committed to the work of the Lord (Proverbs 16:3)

K. Submissive to authority (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

L. An orientation toward love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

M. Teachable spirit (Romans 6:17-18)

N. Ability to minister in reliance on the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:26-27)

O. Facility and accuracy with using God's Word for answers (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

II. INITIAL ASSESSMENT

A. What is their relationship with Jesus?

1. Avoid confusing terms like "saved", "born-again", in order to avoid getting bogged down with doctrines that are inessential to salvation.

2. If they died tonight, would they go to heaven? Why?

3. If they showed up at the pearly gates, what would they give as their reason for being given entrance into heaven?

B. Have they been empowered by the Holy Spirit? (Acts 19:1-6)

1. Avoid confusing terms like "Spirit-baptized", "baptized by the Spirit", etc.

2. Are the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit working in their life?

C. Are they happy with their present church?

1. This approach reveals more than simply if they go to or have a church.

2. Send them a list of recommended churches or have a pastor contact them.

D. Are they in need of in-depth counseling?

1. Is their present church capable of handling their problem?

2. If not, refer them to a known ministry and/or church that is known to biblically handle the issues involved.

E. Get them to make one or more *specific* prayer requests.

F. Pray with them. (Sometimes you will feel led to let them lead the prayer).

G. Close immediately with a word of thank you or encouragement.

III. THE PRIMARY CONCERNS OF CALLERS

- A. Financial needs (est. 30% of all calls)
- B. Healing needs (est. 20% of all calls)
- C. Family-related problems (est. 20% of all calls)
- D. Need salvation, empowerment of the Spirit or re-dedication of their lives to Jesus
- E. Unanswered theological questions
- F. Overwhelming life circumstances

IV. POSSIBLE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE SEEKING HELP

(The presenting problem is usually not the root problem. It is a *symptom*.)

A. Lack of total commitment to Christ (John 15:7; Jeremiah 29:13; Psalm 37:4; Matthew 6:33) - a basic unwillingness to completely surrender every avenue of their life to God.

1. They may have had incomplete or bad teaching about how the promises of God are connected to one's commitment to God.

2. They still love their sin more than they love God.

3. They don't trust God.

4. They don't believe God loves them. They believe they are unlovable.

5. They believe that they can never be forgiven for one or more sins - that they are unforgiveable.

6. They are filled with self-hatred.

7. They harbor unforgiveness toward one or more people.

8. They are seeking attention and sympathy but not permanent healing and change.

9. Their motive for walking with God isn't love of Him.

10. They are trapped in a "performance-oriented" approach to salvation and the Christian life.

11. They haven't yet learned how to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome or quench sin. (Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16)

12. They are still bound by soul ties with one or more people, which must be uncovered in prayer and renounced.

13. They have not yet believed and proclaimed that any curse brought upon them by their own actions, or those of at least four generations of ancestors, are broken in the name of Jesus and by the power of His blood.

14. They have not yet considered themselves foreigners or strangers in this world (Hebrews 11:13-14, 16; James 4:4) - forsaking it and seeing themselves as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven (Philippians 3:19-20), possessed with the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and His heart for holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).

B. Trapped in a self-striving, legalistic approach to life (motivated by something other than love).

C. Harboring bitterness, unforgiveness, or some other continuing sin.

V. PARAMETERS FOR MINISTRY ONLINE OR BY PHONE

A. If ministering by phone, keep your *average* to 5-10 minutes per call.

B. Never go over 10 minutes unless the caller is suicidal.

C. Complete an information form for all callers who need to be contacted further.

D. Never give out your physical address.

E. If a caller requests a particular person, apologize and tell them that such requests are no longer allowed.

F. Never tell callers that we will help them materially. Assure them only that we will give their

case serious consideration according to our resources.

VI. METHODS FOR MAINTAINING CONTROL OF THE CONVERSATION

A. Always have a question ready. Leaving dead air will open the door for them to take over the conversation.

B. Always press toward your goal of praying for their need as soon as possible.

C. Remember that the goal of prayer is to zero in on *specific* requests of God. It is impossible to know if a grand, sweeping request (-e.g., bless all the missionaries) has been answered, but if you ask God to bless Joe Smith in Cairo with the jeep he needs for ministry, and Joe receives one not long thereafter, then it is clear that God answered the prayer. He can then receive all the praise for it and our faith in God and the efficacy of prayer is increased.

D. Employ key questions that zero in on the cause(s) of the problem.

1. Suggested questions for those with health issues.....

a. What has the doctor diagnosed your problem to be?

b. Is there anyone in your life for whom you still hold bitterness or unforgiveness?

c. Are you willing to forgive and pray for your enemies?

d. Do you believe that Jesus is able to do this?
(Matthew 9:28)

e. If the caller does not receive an immediate healing, remind them that most healings are progressive in nature. Even Jesus had to pray several times for the blind man in Mark 8:22-26.

2. Suggested Questions for Financial Problems

a. Can you say that you have been seeking *first* God's kingdom and His righteousness? (Matthew 6:25-34)

b. Have you understood and put into practice biblical principles for giving to others - both materially and with your time?

c. Have you been a good steward of the things God has given you?

d. If not, are you willing to conscientiously change your ways in that area?

e. Has your obedience and seeking after God been motivated out of a desire to get what you want or has love of Him been your impetus?

3. Suggested questions for family problems.....

a. Do you esteem others more highly than

yourself? (Philippians 2:3)

b. Have you loved your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her? (Ephesians 5:25)

c. Have you submitted yourself to your husband as Christ has to the Father? (1 Peter 2:21-3:2)

d. Have you honored and been obedient to your parents? (Ephesians 6:1-3)

e. Have you been fair to your children and are you bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord? (Ephesians 6:4)

4. General questions to ask.....

a. Is there some disobedience to the Lord in your life that may have precipitated or perpetuated this problem?

b. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to solve the problem?

c. What exactly would you like God to do for you right now?

d. Are you abiding in Christ and are His words abiding in you? (John 15:7)

E. Employ "Turnaround" Statements to guide the caller into prayer.

1. Follow the style of Jesus.....

a. Mark 11:27-33

b. John 8:1-11

c. Mark 3:1-5

d. Mark 10:17-22

e. Mark 11:27-33

f. Mark 12:13-17

2. Re-direct the conversation toward the goal of making their request known to God.

a. "Let's take it to the Lord right now."

b. "God knows all your circumstances, let's pray."

c. "I was in a similar situation and Jesus changed me and He can change you, too, so let's pray."

d. "What can we specifically pray for?"

e. "Let's agree in prayer about this right now."

f. "God is in control of all things, so let's pray."

g. "God is able to do anything, so let's pray."

h. "The Bible says _____ so let's pray for

that to happen."

i. "Perhaps as we pray, God will begin to show us the answer."

VII. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH THOSE SEEKING HELP

A. Rely on the Holy Spirit and lean not on your own understanding.

B. God is responsible for the results - you are responsible only for being faithful to love the caller and to take their need before the Father.

C. Be faithful to let the caller know that you love them, you understand their need, and that you care about them.

D. Put yourself in their place.

E. Always ask the Lord to reveal the source of the problem that lies beneath the symptom that is being described by the caller.

F. Pray according to what you know, as revealed *primarily* by God and *secondarily* by the caller.

G. Use the words of scripture in your prayers as often as possible.

H. Don't cast pearls before those who are unwilling to do whatever God requires. (Matthew 7:6)

I. The sooner you pray, the sooner they'll receive God's answer.

J. Don't waste time trying to convince or convict the caller. That is the job of the Holy Spirit. Don't probe for additional needs. They can always call again.

VIII. WHAT WE BELIEVE

A. About God

1. There is one God. (Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19)

2. He exists in three persons. (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17)

3. Jesus Christ is God. (Exodus 3:13-14; John 8:58; Titus 2:13)

4. The Holy Spirit is God. (Luke 12:10,12; Romans 8:11,14, 26-27)

B. About Man

1. He is made in God's image. (Genesis 1:26)

2. His sin has separated him from God. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12,17; 1 John 1:10)

3. He can be reconciled to God only by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior because Jesus alone took care of the sin problem by dying in our place on the Cross. (John 3:15-16)

4. Man is saved by grace through faith, not of works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

C. About Salvation

1. Salvation is an unmerited gift (grace) of God to be accepted by faith. (Romans 4:1-25)

2. Good works are a natural fruit in the life of a regenerate man. (Ephesians 2:10; James 2:26)

3. Good works do not, however, justify man before God. (Romans 3:9-20; Isaiah 64:6)

D. About Being Adopted

1. Jesus Christ is the only natural and eternal Son of God. (Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:17; John 3:16)

2. Believers are *adopted* sons of God. (John 1:12, Galatians 4:4-5; 1 John 3:1)

3. As adopted sons, we are heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:6)

E. About the Christian Life

1. Abiding in Christ is the key to the Christian life. (John 15:5-11)

2. Good fruit is brought about through allowing Christ to work in us, which presumes the pursuit of an intimate relationship with Him. (2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 1:11)

3. It involves a spiritual battle. (Ephesians 6:12; Daniel 10:12-13)

4. Though usually not *caused* by Him, trials and

suffering are *allowed* for our growth. (1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-14; Romans 5:3-5; 8:28; James 1:12) They can also be caused simply as a result of the fall of man and with it, God's creation.

5. Victory comes through faith in the promises of God coupled with taking the appropriate steps demanded by each promise. (1 John 5:4; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

6. Jesus has won the power for us to conquer. Sometimes we have not because we ask not. (James 4:2-3; 1 John 3:8; 4:4; Luke 10:19; Colossians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Romans 8:31, 37)

7. Jesus has conferred His authority upon those who follow Him as a disciple would. (Luke 9:1ff)

F. About the Work of the Holy Spirit

1. He indwells all believers. (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 John 4:13)

2. He gives spiritual gifts as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

3. All the gifts of the Spirit are active today. (Acts 2:16-21; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10)

4. The purpose of the gifts is to carry out the Great Commission and as an aid in the sanctification of believers. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 3:16; 5:12, 16; 6:8)

5. Spiritual gifts should be kept in balance. We must always seek the Giver above the gift. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 14:1-40)

G. About Our Security in Christ

1. Depends on the sincerity of our profession of faith as proven by the evidence of a changed life. (Matthew 7:19-23; James 2:18, 26; 1 John 2:19; 3:6, 9-10, 24; 4:8, 20; 5:1-4, 18; 3 John 11)

2. Depends upon belief in the essential doctrines

of the faith -e.g., Jesus is Savior, Lord, and God who died and rose from the grave to atone for mans sins, the Bible is God's Word, man is saved by grace alone, etc. (John 8:18, 23-24)

3. For a true believer who does not walk away from faith in Christ, it is certain. (Hebrews 7:25; Ephesians 4:30; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39; 1 John 4:13; 5:13)

H. About Those Who Reject Christ

1. They will be judged without the covering of Christ and barred from heaven. (Romans 2:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-9)

2. They will suffer eternal separation from God. (John 8:44; Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:11-15)

I. Regarding Other Doctrines of the Faith

1. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary.

2. Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

3. Jesus willingly suffered death on the cross and was raised bodily from the dead three days later.

4. No man can be saved without accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

5. Jesus will come again for His Church.

6. Believers will be judged for their works only as it pertains to receiving or losing intended rewards - not for condemnation. (1 Corinthians 3:15)

7. Believers will receive a glorified body and live forever in the presence of God.

8. Water baptism is an act of obedience and not a means to salvation.

9. Spirit baptism is intended for the empowerment of believers for the work of the Lord.

10. As Jesus said, the Lord's Supper (aka communion, Lord's table, or Eucharist) is an act of remembrance of our Lord's death (Luke 22:19). The Holy Spirit is present in a special way, however, but only in a spiritual sense.

IX. PRAYER PRINCIPLES

A. Be Led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-15; John 15:5-11)

1. Live a consecrated life unto the Lord by God's power - motivated by love.

2. Manifest a determined effort to know God by the daily reading of His Word. (Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:5; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:21)

3. Manifest a desire to seek the Lord in prayer at every opportunity. (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

4. Manifest a life of obedience to God's Word. (James 1:22; Matthew 10:38; Luke 6:46)

5. Manifest a desire to worship the Lord both

privately and corporately at every opportunity.
(John 4:23-24; Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:15)

6. Manifest a desire for fellowship with other mature believers. (Ephesians 5:18-21; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Acts 13:1-4)

7. Manifest a desire to share Christ with others.
(Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)

8. Manifest a desire to give without expecting any return. (Luke 6:38; Philippians 3:7-8; 2 Timothy 1:8)

9. Manifest a repentant, teachable spirit.
(Matthew 3:18)

B. Possess an understanding about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-21)

1. He is God. (Acts 5:3-4)

2. He reveals the things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

3. He empowers (Micah 3:8) and sanctifies the believer. (Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)

4. He gives assurance of salvation. (Romans 8:14-17)

5. He can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19), grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and resisted (Acts 7:51).

6. He is to be sought. (Romans 8:6, 11, 13-16; Ephesians 6:18; John 16:13)

7. He gives gifts as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

8. He sometimes shares "Words of Knowledge" (1 Corinthians 12:8b) - the revealing of an unknown fact.

9. He sometimes shares "Words of Wisdom" (1 Corinthians 12:8a) - the revealing of the solution to a problem.

10. He will give "Discernment of Spirits" (1 Corinthians 12:10) - revealing whether something is caused by an evil spirit.

C. Learning to discern the leadings of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13-15)

1. The work of the Holy Spirit is initiated by the counsel of God and cannot be conjured or acquired through special formulas or mental gymnastics.

2. A gift of revelation knowledge may come in different forms at different times.....

a. An inner witness - similar in feeling to what is called "intuition". (1 John 2:27)

b. An inward voice (not audibly perceived, yet just as real to the mind). Often the voice seems to emanate from the region of the heart.

c. An urging by the conscience - simply knowing right from wrong. (Romans 9:1; Acts 24:16;

2 Corinthians 1:12)

d. An audible voice. (Acts 10:17-20; 13:1-3)

e. A vision. (Acts 2:17; 16:9; 2 Corinthians 12:1)

f. The words to say may be put in your mouth even as you speak. (Luke 21:14-15)

g. An emotion may overtake you, such as deep sorrow, etc.

3. Sensitivity to the leadings of the Spirit increases over time and as you are faithful to employ what you are given.

4. Speak what you perceive in your spirit even if you are unsure. Speak in faith that it is of God. If it isn't, it will fall on empty ground. The more you step out in faith, the more God will reveal things to you.

X. HOW TO PRAY FOR SALVATION

A. Clues to a Possible Need for Salvation

1. If they reveal a pattern of unrepentant sin that is inconsistent with a changed life. (1 John 1:6; 2:3-6, 15; 3:6-10, 24; 4:16, 20; 5:4, 18; Matthew 7:21-23)
2. If they reveal a lack of understanding about the person of Jesus and the way to salvation. (1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3, 15; 5:1, 5, 10; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:8; Romans 9:5; Mark 14:61-62; 15:2; John 1:1, 14, 18; 20:28-29; Exodus 3:13-14 and John 8:58)
3. If they reveal an affiliation with a non-Christian religion - e.g., Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Mormons (aka Latter Day Saints), Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, Way International, the New Age movement, Transcendental Meditation, Scientology, EST, Bahai, Unity, Centering Prayer, etc.

4. If they complain of the hypocrisy, faithlessness, meaninglessness or powerlessness of their current church.

5. If they do not go to church.

B. Leading Someone to Christ - Preparatory Questions

1. "What is *your* relationship with Jesus?"

(You are looking for an active faith that reveals itself in a changed life.)

2. "Have you accepted Christ into your heart as your personal Savior?"

(You're looking for an understanding of that question and a "Yes" answer.)

3. "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God and that He died for your sins?"

(You're looking for a "Yes" answer). (Romans 9:5; 5:8)

4. "Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of grace."

(You're looking for a "Yes" answer). (Romans 3:23, 6:23)

5. "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven? Why or why not?"

(They should respond with something along the lines of, "Yes, because I have accepted Jesus as my Savior." Be on the alert for any answer that reveals a belief that they can earn salvation.)

6. "Are you willing to follow the Lord as He leads you to change your old sinful lifestyle into a new, God-centered one?"

(You're looking for an understanding that repentance is necessary, a willingness to follow the

Lord, and an understanding that it is by responding to the infusion of God's power rather than self-effort that they will be able to follow God.)

7. "Are you willing to make your faith in Jesus known to others?"

(You're looking for a "Yes" answer). (Romans 10:9-10)

C. Scriptural Pathway to Salvation

1. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

2. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

3. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

4. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

5. "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Romans 10:9)

6. "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

7. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)

D. A Sample Prayer for Salvation

"LORD JESUS. I CONFESS THAT I AM A SINNER. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MY SINS. I TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD - THAT YOU FORGIVE ALL THOSE WHO ASK.

I BELIEVE THAT YOU DIED FOR ME, WERE BURIED AND AROSE FROM THE DEAD. I ASK YOU TO BE MY LORD AND SAVIOR. I GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU AND ASK THAT YOU WOULD MAKE ME THE PERSON THAT YOU WANT ME TO BE. THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING ME NOW AND FORGIVING ALL MY SINS.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOW IN MY HEART AND THAT I WILL LIVE WITH YOU FOREVER. I BELIEVE THAT I AM SAVED AND THAT IF I DIED TONIGHT I WOULD GO TO HEAVEN. AMEN."

XI. LEAD THEM INTO THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Doctrinal Considerations

1. Every born again believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a pouring out of the Spirit or immersion of the believer in the power of the Spirit for the purpose of empowering the believer with the gifts of the Spirit for service to God. (Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; 4:29-31; 5:32; 8:17)
3. The Baptism of the Spirit is a gift that is received by asking in faith, just as is done in a prayer for salvation. (Luke 11:9-13)
4. Jesus is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:11)

5. Speaking in tongues can be one evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Like the other spiritual gifts, however, it may or may not manifest in the person who prays for it (1 Corinthians 12:11) because the Holy Spirit distributes the various gifts "as He wills".

6. Tongues is not the most important gift of the Holy Spirit and should only be used within biblical parameters. (1 Corinthians 13:1-2; 14:1-40)

7. Power to carry out the Great Commission is the main purpose for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 3:16; 5:12, 16; 6:8)

8. Empowerment by the Holy Spirit can occur immediately after receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, or it can happen sometime after believing. (Acts 11:15-17; 19:1-6)

B. Ministering the Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Believer

1. Are they thirsty for the gift? (John 7:37-38)

2. Do they believe that if they ask, they will receive? (Luke 11:9-13; Mark 11:24)

3. Are they willing to receive whichever gift(s) the Holy Spirit chooses to impart?

4. Are they willing to use any gift of the Spirit they receive in service to the Lord?

5. Ask them to repeat after you a prayer such as the following.....

"FATHER IN HEAVEN, I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, MY SAVIOR AND LORD. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THAT THIS GIFT IS MINE JUST FOR THE ASKING. I NEED THIS POWER IN MY LIFE AND I ASK YOU NOW TO BAPTIZE ME IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. I RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY FAITH AND WILL USE THEM FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AS THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTS. THANK YOU JESUS FOR EMPOWERING ME WITH

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOR THE ABILITY TO
SERVE YOU IN A NEW, MORE POWERFUL WAY.
AMEN."

6. Encourage them to expect, to receive, and to utilize their new spiritual gifts. Some people may manifest one or more of the gifts immediately. Some will need to ask (and keep asking) the Father to remove any blockages to the gifts. Keep encouraging those who have to wait for the manifestation of their new gift(s).

7. Encourage them to fellowship with other Spirit-filled believers at church or at a para-church gathering and to use their gifts often, but only as led by the Holy Spirit.

8. Urge the caller to allow the Holy Spirit to manifest both the gifts and the fruits. (Romans 12:1-21; Galatians 5:22-26)

C. Follow-Up Suggestions

1. Remind them to read their Bible every day -

that it is food for their spirit.

2. Remind them to fellowship weekly in a Bible-believing church that also believes in the present work of the Holy Spirit. Send them a list of churches that you recommend for their area.

3. Remind them to be water baptized.

4. Remind them to pray daily for their needs, to worship Him, and to give thanks to God.

XII. SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE SIGNS & WONDERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Luke 11:9-13

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you - for everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 24:45-49

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:7-8

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 3:11-12

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some

doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 16:16-20

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Acts 3:16

And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Acts 5:12-15

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 11:15-18

"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 19:1-7

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to

believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all.

John 14:15-18

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the

Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles - for they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Matthew 15:16-20

And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.

XIII. HOW TO PRAY FOR DIVINE HEALING

A. Preparing for Prayer

1. As the person tells you what their illness is, ask the Lord silently to reveal any hidden condition that may be the source for the illness.

2. Commune with the Lord and listen for words of knowledge, words of wisdom and/or discernment of spirits.

3. If the Lord does not reveal anything to you, pray according to what the caller has described as the problem. (One reason for the absence of a word from the Lord is that there is nothing hidden - a simple prayer for healing is all that is needed.)

4. Make certain that both you and the caller are in agreement on what you are praying for.

a. Agree that God is their healer.

b. Agree that it is the Lord's general will to heal all that come to Him. The Bible teaches that Jesus healed everyone that came to Him, (Matthew 6:10; 7:7; 10:7-8; 28:18-20), except on at least one occasion, when people in His hometown refused to come to him or believe in Him. (Mark 6:1-6)

c. Agree that they will be healed by faith, by God's unmerited grace.

d. Agree that faith is a gift from God to be received freely. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

e. If the healing is not immediate, agree that the caller should keep asking, (Matthew 7:7-8), until the healing is fully manifest. Even Jesus prayed several times for a blind man in Mark 8:22-26.

f. Agree that Jesus is willing (Matthew 8:2-3) and able (Matthew 9:28-29) to heal.

g. Agree that you will not be swayed by circumstances, but will pray with faith that God can do all things.

h. Agree that Jesus has already won the victory over Satan's power through His death on the cross not only for the disease of sin (1 Peter 2:24-25), but also for physical disease. (Matthew 8:16-17)

B. Pray a prayer for their healing such as the following:

FATHER, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST MY LORD AND SAVIOR, I COME TO YOU TO LAY MY BURDEN AT YOUR FEET JUST AS YOU SAID TO DO AND I ASK YOU TO FILL ME WITH THE FAITH TO BE HEALED. I ASK YOU TO DESTROY THE WORK OF THE ENEMY JUST AS YOU SAID YOU WOULD. I ASK YOU TO BREAK THE POWER OF THIS DISEASE AND TO FREE ME BY THE POWER OF JESUS' BLOOD AND FROM THE POWER OF THIS SICKNESS - TO DESTROY IT COMPLETELY BY THE WORD OF YOUR MOUTH. HEAL MY _____ IN THE NAME OF JESUS. AND BY THE AUTHORITY AND POWER

VESTED IN ME AS A CHILD OF GOD THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS' CROSS, I RECEIVE YOUR HEALING BY FAITH AND PRAY THAT YOU WOULD PERMANENTLY RELEASE ME FROM ITS HOLD. I THANK YOU FOR IT IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.

1. Sometimes the Lord will lead you to speak to the condition or to a demonic spirit that has caused it.

2. Sometimes the Lord will tell you to speak to the body part to be made whole.

3. Sometimes the Lord will reveal sin(s) that needs to be repented of for the healing to be made manifest.

4. In the absence of clear direction from the Lord, pray according to the information that you have.

5. Remember that this is a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12) and that you are doing war with the powers of Satan.

6. Remember also that Jesus has given you authority over *all* the power of the enemy and that nothing shall hurt you (Luke 10:19); and that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but have divine power to tear down the strongholds of the enemy. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

XIV. MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE

A. Foundations

1. All BELIEVERS have been given the authority to deal with demonic spirits. If your faith has not yet been strengthened in this area, STUDY the subject until you are confident to minister. Find a seasoned believer to mentor you when possible. (Mark 16:17, Luke 10:17-20, and Acts 8:4-8)

2. YOUR AUTHORITY comes from being in right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and through using HIS NAME. (John 14:12-14, James 4:7, Acts 16:16-18, Ephesians 6:10-11) In the Jewish context, to use someone's "name" is to pray according to the *authority and power* that they have conferred upon you. Additionally, since a person's "name" is often a statement about their personality and/or destiny, praying in the "name" of Jesus also means to pray according to His *values, personality and destiny*.

3. Demonic activity always operates in the "unseen world" of the spirit. However, symptoms of a demonic presence will sometimes manifest in those who have opened themselves to its influence. (Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians. 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8)
Although a believer cannot be possessed by a demon, he or she can be "demonized" or "oppressed" by demonic powers, especially when returning to the darker forms of sinful behavior.

4. A Christian has nothing to fear on the subject. Our position is IN Christ, so His victory over the devil and demonic powers is now ours. (1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 John 4:18)

5. The ministry of deliverance **REQUIRES SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**. If the gifts of "revelation knowledge" are not operating at the time of ministry, do not proceed beyond your faith. (Acts 19:13-18, Acts 13:8-11, Acts 16:16-18)

B. Steps of Ministry

1. Be Prepared

Living a fasted and consecrated life before God is a prerequisite to this type of ministry - humility, honesty, confession of all known sin through repentance, a forgiving nature, complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ, and well established in the knowledge of God's Word. (Matthew 17:18-21, Galatians 5:16-17)

2. Discern Correctly

The works or sins of the (old) carnal nature often times manifest the same symptoms as demonic oppression. The ONLY WAY to discern the difference is by relying on the Holy Spirit's gifts of the "word of knowledge" and/or "discerning of spirits". Without either of these supernatural gifts, you will only be guessing as to what you are dealing with. In this type of ministry there can be NO GUESSING. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 2:6-7, 10-14, Acts 13:8-11)

3. Deal With the Spirits - Not the Person

If it is a spirit, speak directly against the demonic

activity using a scriptural foundation in your delivery. Employ the prayer of "binding and loosing", using the Name of Jesus, and applying the Blood of Jesus in the process. (Revelation 12:11, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Matthew 18:18-19, Matthew 12:29)

4. Be Firm, Direct, and Final

Rely on the confident assurance of the enabling Holy Spirit during and after your prayer of deliverance. HE IS YOUR ENABLING FORCE that dislodges the demonic activity through the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. Finish with a strong "...it is finished...in Jesus Name!" (Matthew 8:31-32, Mark 11:24, John 8:36).

C. Methods and learned procedures used during this kind of ministry are of little use IF THEY ARE NOT INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Spirits are not confined to space, distance, and time. Since the Holy Spirit knows all, sees all, and is your "helper", do what HE is inspiring you to do. Avoid proceeding in deliverance based on what you "think" should

happen.

D. The following prayers are typical prayers of deliverance. You may use all or parts of them.

Whether on the phone or in the presence of the one needing deliverance, pray, believing what you are saying IS TAKING PLACE! AS ALWAYS pray according to how the Holy Spirit is leading you.

(Advice and some of the prayers have been gleaned in part from *Prayers that Avail Much*, by Germaine Copeland.)

XV. DELIVERANCE FROM SATAN AND HIS DEMONIC FORCES

A. If the person for whom you are interceding has not confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord, pray specifically for his salvation if you have not already done so. Stand and thank the Father that it is done in the name of Jesus.

B. Prayers of deliverance must not be prayed for someone who does not want to be free.

C. It is important to warn them that their cry for deliverance must be a cry for *permanent* freedom. To return to the beliefs and behaviors that brought about the bondage can result in even worse problems. (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 10:26-27; Luke 11:24-26)

D. Pray in this manner.....

"Father, in the name of Jesus, I come boldly to Your throne of grace and present _____ before You. I stand in the gap and intercede in behalf of _____ knowing that the Holy Spirit within me takes hold together with me against the evils that would attempt to hold _____ in bondage. I unwrap _____ from the bonds of wickedness with my prayers and take my shield of faith and quench every fiery dart of the adversary that would come against _____."

"Father, You say that whatever I bind on earth is bound in heaven and whatever I loose on earth is loosed in heaven. You say for me to cast out demons in the name of Jesus.....

SO I SPEAK TO YOU, SATAN, AND TO THE PRINCIPALITIES, THE POWERS, THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS, AND SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES AND THE DEMONIC SPIRITS OF (name of spirits) ASSIGNED TO _____. I TAKE AUTHORITY OVER YOU AND BIND YOU AWAY FROM _____ IN THE MIGHTY NAME OF JESUS. YOU LOOSE _____ AND LET HIM GO FREE IN THE

NAME OF JESUS. I DEMAND THAT YOU DESIST IN YOUR MANEUVERS NOW. SATAN, YOU ARE SPOILED AND A DEFEATED FOE AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS AGAINST YOU!"

"Father, I have laid hold of _____ salvation and his confession of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I speak of things that are not as though they were for I choose to look at the unseen - the eternal things of God. I say that Satan shall not get an advantage of _____ : for I am not ignorant of Satan's devices. I resist Satan, and he has run in terror from _____ in the name of Jesus. I give Satan no place in _____. I plead the blood of the Lamb over _____, for Satan and his cohorts are overcome by that blood and Your Word. I thank You, Father, that I tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy in _____ behalf. _____ is delivered from the bondage of this present evil world. He is delivered from the powers of darkness and translated into the kingdom of Your dear Son!

Father, I ask You now to fill those vacant places within _____ with Your redemption, Your Word,

the Holy Spirit, Your love, Your wisdom, Your righteousness, and Your revelation knowledge in the name of Jesus.

I thank You, Father, that _____ is redeemed by the blood of Jesus out of the hand of Satan. He is justified and made righteous by the blood of Jesus and belongs to You - spirit, soul and body. I thank You that every enslaving yoke is broken for _____ who will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power in the name of Jesus. _____ has escaped the snare of the devil that has held him captive and henceforth does Your will, Father, which is to glorify You in his spirit, soul and body.

Thank You, Father, that Jesus was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil. Satan's works are destroyed in _____ life in the name of Jesus. Hallelujah! _____ walks in the kingdom of God which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord!"

Once this prayer has been prayed, thank the Father that

Satan and his cohorts are bound. Stand firm, fixed, immovable, and steadfast on your confessions of faith as you intercede on this person's behalf, for "greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world" (I John 4:4).

XVI. SCRIPTURES ABOUT DELIVERANCE

MARK 16:17

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues.....

LUKE 10:17

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

ACTS 8:4-8

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with

a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

JOHN 14:12-14

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

ACTS 16:16-18

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune telling.

She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

EPHESIANS 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the

minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 JOHN 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 JOHN 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

2 TIMOTHY 2:7

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

ACTS 19:13-18

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both

Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.

ACTS 13:8-11

But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

ACTS 16:16-18

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and

brought her owners much gain by fortune telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

MATTHEW 17:18-21

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

GALATIANS 5:16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh

are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-7

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-14

.....these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

ACTS 13: 8-11

But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

REVELATION 12:11

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:3-5

And I know that this man was caught up into

paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.

MATTHEW 18:18-20

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

MATTHEW 12:29

Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

MATTHEW 8:31-32

And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.” And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.

MARK 11:22-25

And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

JOHN 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son

remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

XVII. ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Hebrews 4:16

Ezekiel 22:30

Romans 8:26

Isaiah 58:6

Ephesians 6:16

Matthew 18:18

Mark 16:17

Ephesians 6:12

Colossians 2:15

Matthew 12:29

Hebrews 1:14

Romans 4:17

2 Corinthians 4:18

2 Corinthians 2:11

James 4:7

Ephesians 4:27

Revelation 12:11

Luke 10:19

Galatians 1:4

Colossians 1:13

Matthew 12:43-45

1 Corinthians 6:12

2 Timothy 2:26

1 John 3:8

Romans 14:17

Psalm 147:15

2 Timothy 2:9

Psalm 144:7-8

Titus 1:11

Isaiah 43:5-6

Isaiah 29:23-24

Isaiah 49:25

Matthew 18:18

2 Timothy 3:9

Psalm 146:7-8

Psalm 147:3-6

Luke 1:17

Jeremiah 31:16-17

Jeremiah 46:27

2 Timothy 3:2-9

Hebrews 1:14

2 Timothy 3:15

2 Timothy 4:18

Job 22:30

XVIII. PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS OF CULTS OR OTHER RELIGIONS

Father, in the name of Jesus, we come before You in prayer and in faith believing that Your Word runs swiftly throughout the earth, for the Word of God is not chained or imprisoned. We bring before You _____ (*those and families of those involved in cults or non-Christian religions*). Father, stretch forth Your hand from above, rescue and deliver _____ out of great waters, from the land of hostile aliens whose mouth speaks deceit and whose right hand is a right hand raised in taking fraudulent oaths. Their mouths must be stopped for they are mentally distressing and subverting _____ and whole families by teaching what they ought not teach, for the purpose of getting base advantage and disreputable gain. But praise God, they will not get very far for their rash folly will become obvious to everybody!

Execute justice, precious Father, for the oppressed.

Set the prisoners free, open the eyes of the blind, lift up the bowed down, heal the brokenhearted, bind up their wounds, curing their pains and sorrow. Lift up the humble and down-trodden and cast the wicked to the ground in the mighty name of Jesus.

Turn back the hearts of the disobedient, incredulous, and unpersuadable to the wisdom of the upright, the knowledge and holy love of the will of God in order to make ready for You, Lord, a people perfectly prepared in spirit, adjusted, disposed, and placed in the right moral state.

Father, You say in Your Word to refrain our voice from weeping and our eyes from tears for our prayers shall be rewarded and _____ shall return from the enemy's land and come again to their own country. You will save our offspring from the land of their exile, from the east and the west - sons from afar and daughters from the ends of the earth. We shall see _____ walking in the ways of piety and virtue revering Your name, Father. Those who err in spirit will come to understanding. Those who murmur discontentedly will accept instruction in the

Way, Jesus. Father, You contend with those who contend with us and You give safety to _____ and ease to _____.

SATAN, WE BIND TO YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS, ALONG WITH THE PRINCIPALITIES, THE POWERS, THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS, AND THE WICKED SPIRITS IN HEAVENLY PLACES, AND WE TEAR DOWN STRONGHOLDS USING THE MIGHTY WEAPONS GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR US IN THE NAME OF JESUS. WE SPEAK TO GREED, SELFISHNESS, PRIDE, ARROGANCE, BOASTFULNESS, ABUSE, BLASPHEMY, DISOBEDIENCE, UNGRATEFULNESS. PROFANITY, REBELLION, PERVERSENESS, SLANDER, IMMORALITY, FEROCITY, HATRED. TREACHERY, CONCEIT, LUST, MATERIALISM, ERROR, DECEIT, SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, UNWORTHINESS, FILTHINESS, CRUELTY, HOSTILITY, DEPRAVITY, DISTORTION, UNGODLINESS, AND FALSITY, AND LOOSE _____ FROM ALL DIABOLICAL ASSIGNMENTS AGAINST HIM/HER. WE RENOUNCE ALL NEGATIVE TALKING, DOUBT AND UNBELIEF. SATAN WILL NOT USE THIS AGAINST _____.

We commission the ministering spirits to go forth
and dispel these forces of darkness and bring
_____ home in the name of Jesus.

Father, we believe and confess that _____ has
had knowledge of and been acquainted with the
Word which was able to instruct _____ and
give _____ the understanding for salvation
which comes through faith in Christ Jesus. Lord, we
pray and believe that You certainly will deliver
_____ and draw _____ to yourself from
every assault of evil, and preserve and bring
_____ safe into Your heavenly kingdom. Glory
to You, Father, who delivers those for whom we
intercede in Jesus' name!

*Once one or more of these prayer has been prayed for
an individual, confess it as done. Thank the Father that
he or she is delivered, returning from the enemy's land.
Thank God that Satan is bound. Thank God for their
salvation.*

XIX. PRAYING FOR EMOTION-BASED PROBLEMS

A. Homosexuals - whose needs are echoed in many other forms of sexual bondage & brokenness

1. The *act* of homosexuality (not the temptation) is a sin. (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9)

2. Acting on same-sex attractions whether physically or mentally is tantamount to worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. It is idolatry. (Romans 1:18-32)

3. Committing such acts is rebellion against the moral and natural order established in the beginning by God and subjects the offender to being "given over" to depravity and blindness to just how sinful and self-destructive their actions are. (Romans 1:18-32)

4. The tendency toward homosexual confusion is an emotional dysfunction often brought about by the physical or emotional absence of a significant male figure in the life of a child during their formative years. They have not received the emotional love and positive role modeling that is required for a smooth transition into sexual maturity.

5. In their search for unmet emotional love, they try to fill the void through various kinds of sexual behavior that make them feel wanted while covering the pain of believing that they aren't.

6. Often same-sex attraction and other forms of sexual bondage is generated by childhood molestation, which can cause fear, confusion, anger, and/or hatred of (or obsession with) various kinds of sexual partners.

7. Sometimes, people act out homosexually or in other perverse ways out of hidden anger at God for having put them in a family without love or having allowing them to be molested.

8. The more often a person commits a homosexual act, the more deeply they program same-sex attractions into their thinking. This makes it even more difficult for them to continue experiencing opposite-sex attractions.

9. The homosexual can be delivered from out-of-control compulsions by praying for the Lord to bring deliverance but the temptation to commit such acts may never go away completely.

10. Though they may only realize partial victory in this area, they must *want* to change, for that change to be permanent, and be willing to do whatever it takes to get free.

11. Minister in this way:

a. Assure them of God's unconditional love and forgiveness for all who repent, no matter what kind or number of sins they've committed.

b. Lead them to the Lord and into the filling and release of the power of the Holy Spirit.

c. Pray for their deliverance from demonic bondage.

d. Refer them to a church and to a men's or women's fellowship.

e. Refer them to one or more of the many resources on the subject. A good place to start is [Restored Hope Network](#) and/or the "Living Waters" program at [Desert Stream Ministries](#).

B. Grief, Discouragement, & Rejection

1. Many times the stress or the pain of gaining freedom from one of these issues is much greater than that of remaining in bondage. In such cases, the caller may lack the willingness to enter into a healing process for those traumas.

2. Even though they are calling for prayer, they may prefer the familiarity and predictability of their brokenness, or the sympathy that being in crisis brings them. Make certain they are willing to do whatever it might take to change their condition.

3. Behind the presenting problem, there often lies a history of rejection, fear of intimacy, unforgiveness, a victim mentality, deception, low self-confidence - even self-hatred and self-pity. Such issues create roadblocks to freedom. If sought, the Holy Spirit will help uncover these or other hidden issues, provide direction in prayer, and confer an anointing that brings healing and/or deliverance.

4. Many are unaware of their authority as believers to resist and overcome mental and emotional attacks of the enemy.

5. Many are unaware of Satan's tactics and what their tools are to fight him. (Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 2:11)

6. In grief, many are going through one of several stages that are common to this condition (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance). You may also encounter bitterness and helplessness.

7. Pray in this way:

a. Assure them that God loves them and that you care about what they are going through.

b. Pray for what seems to be the root cause of the problem but always be open to the Holy Spirit redirecting your prayers.

c. Pray for deliverance if the Spirit should reveal a need in that area.

d. Refer them to a church, a home fellowship group, and/or a men's or women's fellowship.

e. Buy them (or find online) one of the many videos on the subject, such as, "Such Were Some of You", "How Do You Like Me Now? When a Loved One Says They're Gay", or "TranZformed: Finding Peace with Your God-Given Gender".

f. Find our "Pure Passion" videos online along with the "Pure Passion" Discussion Guide.

XX. PRAYING FOR FREEDOM FROM DEPRESSION

A. You always want to ask if their depression is being treated with medication. Serious health issues might occur if the medication is stopped "cold turkey".

B. There is "circumstantial" depression and "clinical/chemical" depression. Ask which one they have been diagnosed with and pray accordingly.

C. Depression often hides deep anger and/or unforgiveness, so that could be a line of inquiry during the assessment process.

D. Self-hatred over one or more perceived failures can precipitate depression. They may believe that they are themselves a failure.

E. A feeling of meaninglessness and hopelessness can cause depression.

F. Always inquire if they have thoughts of taking their own life and how likely it is that they might do such a thing. If they do, bring your supervisor into the prayer ministry session and/or professional therapeutic care.

G. Suggested prayers.....

"Father, I pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit you would correct any imbalances or other physiological cause for this depression."

"Lord, reveal hidden traumas, lies believed or other causes for this depression and bring healing and direction for those issues. In Your name and according to Your Word, I stand against all such schemes of the evil one." (Ephesians 6:11; John 8:44)

Always spend some time waiting on the Lord to reveal anything hidden and then pray accordingly.

"Father, You are my refuge and my high tower and my stronghold in times of trouble. I lean on and confidently put my trust in You; for You have not forsaken me, who seeks You on the authority of Your Word and the right of my necessity. I praise You, the help of my countenance and my God."

"Lord, You lift up those who are bowed down. Therefore, I am strong and my heart takes courage. I establish myself on righteousness in conformity with Your will and order. I am far even from the thought of oppression or destruction, for I fear not; and from terror, for it shall not come near me."

"Father, You have thoughts and plans for my welfare and peace, and my mind is stayed on You for I stop allowing myself to be agitated, disturbed, intimidated, cowardly, and unsettled."

"SATAN, I RESIST YOU AND EVERY OPPRESSIVE SPIRIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS. I RESIST FEAR, DISCOURAGEMENT, SELF-PITY, AND DEPRESSION. I SPEAK THE WORD OF TRUTH, IN THE POWER OF GOD, AND I GIVE YOU NO PLACE, SATAN. I GIVE

NO OPPORTUNITY TO YOU. I AM DELIVERED
FROM OPPRESSION BY THE BLOOD OF THE
LAMB."

"Father, I thank You that I have been given a spirit of power and of love and of a calm and well-balanced mind, discipline, and self-control. I have the mind of Christ and hold the thoughts, feelings, and purposes of His heart. I have a fresh mental and spiritual attitude for I am constantly renewed in the spirit of my mind with Your Word, Father.

Therefore, I brace up, reinvigorate, cut through, and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for my feet - safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction. I arise from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept me. I rise to new life. I shine and am radiant with the glory of the Lord.

Thank You, Father, in Jesus' name that I am set free from every evil work. I praise You that the joy of the Lord is my strength and stronghold! Hallelujah!"

H. Other scripture references.....

Psalm 9:9-10

Psalm 42:5,11

Psalm 14:6-8

Psalm 31:22-24

Isaiah 35:3-4

Isaiah 54:14

Isaiah 50:10

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Isaiah 26:3

John 14:27

James 4:7

Ephesians 4:27

Luke 4:18-19

2 Timothy 1:7

1 Corinthians 2:16

Philippians 2:5

Ephesians 4:23-24

Hebrews 12:12-13

Isaiah 60:1

Galatians 1:4

Nehemiah 8:10

XXI. PRAYING FOR THOSE THREATENING SUICIDE

A. Have a system in place whereby the supervisor is automatically alerted to the situation. Let the one with the greatest expertise handle the call.

B. Don't panic. God is in complete control and you only need be a willing vessel to say those things that the Lord puts on your heart.

C. Try to discern whether or not the caller is serious. Find out if they have the means (a gun, etc.) or if they've already begun the act (taken pills, etc.).

D. Say: "My name is _____. What is yours?" "Where do you live?" "Let me get your phone number in case we get cut off." "Do you live alone?" "Who are your relatives?"

E. Never press them for information that they do not want to give. Bring it up again in a different way after a while if it seems they are beginning to trust you.

F. Ask them questions that will help them come back into reality, such as: "What time is it?" "Did you see that amazing news story today?" Be tactful about when it is appropriate to ask these things.

G. As soon as you have a phone number or name and address, let the supervisor know so that he/she may need to get local people involved to help them further.

H. The supervisor should call the emergency number in the caller's area. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) may also be of some help.

I. Keep them on the phone as long as you can by talking and praying with them.

J. Some suicide threat calls will be false alarms but we must take them all seriously just in case.

K. All information must be kept and a copy sent to your supervisor.

L. In your conversation and prayer with them, assure them that.....

1. There is hope.

2. God does care (and so do you).

3. God can help them (and so will we).

4. God loves them (and so do you).

5. The self-destructive thoughts are lies from the enemy and will only make matters worse.

6. Many times, just explaining what Jesus has done for them is very helpful.

XXII. PRAYING FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A. Determine the severity and frequency. Often it will be best to suggest that a period of separation from the husband is necessary.

B. Recommend one of the local agencies that helps battered women. They will know where the "safe houses" are in the city. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-SAFE (7233).

C. Recommend professional Christian counseling for both parties (separate and joint).

D. Recommend that her pastor be notified immediately.

E. Pray for repentance, guidance, wisdom, deliverance and forgiveness for all who are involved.

F. Pray against spirits of violence, misogyny, anger, hatred, division.

G. Pray for God to stop the hand of the abuser and begin taking him through a discovery/healing process for the traumas that persuade them to do what they do.

H. Ask God to give the abuser humility and the gift of repentance for their actions.

XXIII. PRAYING FOR CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS

A. If both parents are involved in the abuse, you need to contact the police, your pastor and the Child Protective Services in their town.

B. If only one parent is involved, it may be enough to notify the other parent as long as they are willing to take appropriate steps to help their child. This would include the immediate removal of the offending spouse from the home or from any contact with the child. It should also include counseling by a Christian therapist who specializes in such cases - for the offender, the non-offending spouse, *and* the child.

C. In some cases, the non-offending spouse knows about it yet refuses to do anything. In such cases, the police, Child Protective Services and your pastor need to be contacted immediately.

D. Do not become personally involved. Leave the disposition of the case to your supervisor.

E. Get the child's name, address and phone number if possible.

F. Assure the child that even though what is happening to them is wrong, it is not their fault.

G. Tell them we will get them help. Have a list of intercessory, prayer, and ministry teams, professional therapists and other helping agencies at the ready to take things further.

H. Ask them, "What do you want us to do." Then offer to get help "in secret".

I. Tell them God loves them - that He wants to help them and their abuser find the healing that each of them desperately need.

J. Help unravel the lies that their abuser has fed them -e.g., that the abuse is their fault; that they

wanted it; that he will kill them or their mother if they tell; that no one will believe them; that they will go to jail and never see them again, etc. (This last threat can be effective in cases where the victim has formed an unhealthy bond with their abuser through emotional manipulation. This is sometimes called the "Stockholm Syndrome" and it is very real).

K. Help them process the trauma of not being believed by anyone (if that has been the case).

XXIV. PRAYING FOR MARITAL PROBLEMS

A. Does the problem reflect an area of disobedience to God's commands?

1. The husband is the head of the wife, yet should love her as Christ loved the Church and as he loves his own body. He is to give himself up for her and to honor her as a fellow heir of salvation. (Ephesians 5:23-28; 1 Peter 3:7)

2. The wife is to be respectful and submissive to her husband as she is to the Lord so that by her behavior she may win even a sinful husband to God. (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-4)

3. It should be noted that the married couple's submission to each other is not required in cases where one is trying to force the other to disobey God. (Acts 4:19; 5:29)

4. Has all bitterness, wrath and anger been put away through forgiveness? (Ephesians 4:31-32)

B. Pray for.....

1. repentance of sin

2. forgiveness of the one who has wronged them

3. wisdom, patience and joy

4. God to change the heart of the one who is unrepentant

5. the Lord to use the trial to bring the fruit of righteousness

C. Divorce

1. Understand God's will in this area.

a. God hates divorce. (Malachi 2:16)

b. God permits divorce if your spouse is sexually unfaithful. (Matthew 5:27-32)

c. God permits divorce if an unbelieving spouse deserts you. (1 Corinthians 7:15)

d. God prefers reconciliation when possible even in such cases. (1 Corinthians 7:10-17)

e. God permits a widow or widower to remarry. (1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 39)

f. God's design is for marriage to be for life. (Mark 10:6-9) It is a sign and symbol - a prophetic enactment of the eternal marriage between Christ and His Church. (Ephesians 5:32)

2. Pray for.....

a. repentance of sin

b. forgiveness of those who have wronged you

c. God to bring about a change of heart and repentance in the offender

d. reconciliation of the marriage

D. Remarriage

1. Understand God's will in this area.

a. To be unlawfully divorced and to remarry is to commit adultery. (Luke 16:18)

b. To marry an unlawfully divorced person is to commit adultery. (Luke 16:18)

c. God does forgive, but God's forgiveness is not a license to willfully sin.

d. A widow or widower is free to get remarried. (Romans 7:2-3)

e. Extenuating circumstances (- e.g., child or spousal abuse) must be taken to the Lord in prayer

and are not for the prayer minister to pass judgment on.

f. It is not our place to judge. We are to convey to the caller what God has revealed in His Word and to pray with them with love and compassion.

2. Pray this way.....

a. Pray that if the former spouse in an unlawful divorce is yet unmarried, that there will be reconciliation.

b. Pray for any repentance and/or forgiveness that may be necessary.

c. Pray for God's will to be done and for the caller to be open and responsive to that will.

d. If the caller is certain that there are adequate extenuating circumstances to justify what would appear as an unlawful remarriage, pray for God to intervene if it is not so.

XXV. PRAYING FOR PARENTING ISSUES

We are all aware of God's teaching to children concerning their duty to honor and obey their parents: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

This section deals with how to pray for a parent who is not realizing success in this area for one reason or another.

A. Parental Obligations Toward Their Children

1. Training (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Galatians 4:1-2)

2. Correction (Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Ephesians 6:4)

3. Provision (2 Corinthians 12:14)

4. Protection (Hebrews 11:23)

5. Nourishment (1 Samuel 1:22)

6. Obey God (Exodus 20:3-6; 1 Kings 15:11,26)

7. No Favoritism (Genesis 25:28)

8. Set Good Example (1 Timothy 4:12;
Philippians 4:9)

9. Not To Provoke To Anger (Ephesians 6:4)

10. Do Not Exasperate (Colossians 3:21)

11. Love (Titus 2:4)

B. Salvation Of A Child

1. It's God's will to save. (1 Timothy 2:4)

2. Prayer "according to His will" gets answered. (1 John 5:13-15)

3. Though He always honors our free will choices, God has indicated a particular interest in answering the prayers of parents for the salvation of their children. (Acts 16:31; 1 Timothy 2:1ff)

4. Children of the promise will be taught of the Lord. (Isaiah 54:13)

5. Proper biblical training will eventually have a positive influence on the child. (Proverbs 22:6; 31:28)

6. Your efforts will bring eternal rewards. (Matthew 25:23)

7. Longsuffering (Proverbs 22:6; Luke 15:11-32)

8. Trust God - give up trying to manipulate or persuade God to save them. Instead, give your child or other loved one into the hands of God and trust

that He will do everything possible to save them.

9. Let them see God's truth in action by virtue of your respectful and pure conduct. (1 Peter 3:1-2)

10. Ask them to forgive you for anything that you have done that has hurt or disappointed them. Such smoldering issues may have been the reason why your loved one has refused to follow your direction and advice, or believe your witness to the truth.

11. Ask God to remove the veil that Satan's has placed over their mind. (2 Corinthians 3:13-16; 4:3-4)

12. Remind them of the hall of faith in Hebrews 11 that describes great saints of God who prayed fervently for things that they didn't live long enough to see. In God's economy, timing is everything.

C. Inter-Sibling Rivalry

1. Pray for any parental cause/contribution to be

revealed. Respond accordingly.

2. Pray for wisdom for the parent according to James 1:5-8.

3. Pray for forgiveness (Mark 11:25-26) and for repentance.

4. Pray for God to change the heart of those who are not acting righteously.

5. Pray for a slowness to anger. (James 1:19-20)

6. Affirm the purpose and outcome of trials.
(Romans 5:3-5; 8:28)

7. Thank the Lord for those promised outcomes.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

D. Rebellious Child

1. Pray according to the previous guidelines in section "C" above.

2. Affirm the salvation promises of section "B" above.

3. Ask the Lord to reveal anything done by the parent(s) or others that has contributed to the problem. Seek forgiveness from both the Lord and from the child for those actions or for any neglect of the child.

E. Worldliness of a Child

1. Affirm the promises of salvation in section "B" above.

2. Pray according to the guidelines of section "C" above.

3. Offer solace by means of the "Prodigal Son" story (Luke 15:11-32) and with scriptures that speak of the faithful calling of God. (Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; John 10:28-29)

4. Engage in the prayer of spiritual warfare. (see

section "F" - following)

F. Praying Spiritual Warfare Prayers

1. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)

2. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

3. "I have given you authority.....over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

4. "The weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:11; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

These are the issues that come up the most from people seeking prayer from call centers, online ministries, or during times of ministry.

Even with unrelated issues, the principles found in this

guide can often be used.